



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 10, 2002

TO: Minerals File
FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 
RE: Site Inspection, Geokinetics, Seep Ridge Project, M/047/002, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 21, 2002
Time of Inspection: at the site from about 8:30 to 10:30 AM
Conditions: Partly cloudy, 70's
Participants: Mickey Schott and David Yacco, Geokinetics; Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Geokinetics would like to complete reclamation at this site, and we wanted to look at what still needs to be done.

Getting to the site:

From US Highway 40 west of Vernal, turn south on SR 88. At 50.8 miles, go straight. Take the left fork at 56.0 miles. The site begins at about 56.2 miles. There is an unimproved road that goes left at this point, and there is a well just to the left of this road. The site is basically south and east from here.

Observations:

We looked at several specific areas, but the conditions we found and my recommendations can be summarized with some general comments. The site has been adequately graded except that some of the roads are still driveable and may need some minimal earthwork, and there are some areas that need additional revegetation and other work.

Just off the Seep Ridge county road is a water well that the operator intends to leave for the use of a local rancher.

Most of the area has been adequately revegetated. Dominant desirable species in the revegetated areas are forage kochia, fourwing saltbush, western wheatgrass, winterfat, thickspike wheatgrass, and alkali sacaton. There are some areas where weeds dominate. These areas include portions of the trailer camp, an area southeast of the shop, and, as I recall, the area of the revegetation plot (or near this). We also found three piles of brush from where certain areas had been cleared.

Some of the roads are being used for an adjacent pipeline and by recreationists, but some appear to have been built for the mine.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Although we only looked at one water well, the bond estimate done in 1996 indicates there are two wells. These wells are to be transferred to SITLA, and the operator needs to ensure the water rights and the wells are properly transferred.

As far as I can tell, all of the surface facilities we looked at are on land being managed by SITLA. I spoke with John Blake of SITLA about which roads should be reclaimed and which should remain after mining. He said that in general, any road that was built for the mine should be reclaimed but any roads that were there before the mine should be left. Roads that should be left include the north-south pipeline road and one road extending from the Seep Ridge county road to the pipeline. Unless there are other public roads of which I am not aware, all other roads need to be reclaimed. These roads should be ripped parallel to the contour as much as possible then seeded.

Other areas where weeds dominate should be re-scarified and reseeded. We discussed ripping these areas shallowly and parallel to the contour to break the soil crust and allow better contact between the seed and soil. Because weeds have become well established in these areas, I expect a flush of weeds in the season after seeding, but with adequate moisture, desirable vegetation should be able to become established and eventually outcompete the weeds. Seeding should definitely be done in the fall. A recommended seed mix was previously sent to the operator, but I am attaching a copy to this report.

The operator asked if I would check to find the names of reclamation contractors in the area. This was also done previously.

jb
Enclosure: Seed Mix Recommendation
cc: Mickey Schott
John Blake
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Recommended Seed Mixture
Geokinetics, Seep Ridge Mine, M/047/002
Prepared August 23, 2002

Species	Pounds PLS/Acre
Fourwing Saltbush	3
Forage Kochia	0.5
Western Wheatgrass	4
Alkali Sacaton	0.1
Crested Wheatgrass	2
Russian Wild Rye	2
Yellow Sweetclover	0.5
Thickspike Wheatgrass	2

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